[English]

Promotion of Coconut cultivation in Kerala

341. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal for the promotion and development of coconut cultivation in Kerala during 1991, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN). (a) Yes Sir.

(b) During 1991-92 the Government of India has sanctioned Rs 140 lakhs for implementation of Coconut Schemes in Kerala. The Coconut Development Board will be implementing the Schemes with the objective of production of quality planting material, expansion of area, improving productivity of coconut and establishment of a Coconut Development Centre for developing technology connected with processing/marketing of coconut. The following are the details of the schemes to be implemented during 1991-92: -

1. Production and distribution of 1,50,000 nos. of T X D hybrid seedlings;
2. Expansion of area under coconut in 1000 ha.
3. Integrated farming in coconut small holdings in Kerala for productivity improvement in an operation area of 10,000 ha;
4. Providing assistance for irrigation facilities to coconut growers;
5. Establishment of a demonstration-cum-seed production farm in an area of 50 acres;
6. Establishment of a Coconut Technology Development Centre for improving the post-harvest processing and marketing of coconut.

Commissioning of Transmitter by Voice of America in Sri Lanka

342. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the voice of America is commissioning a high power transmitter in Sri Lanka very close to India;

(b) if so, whether the Government have lodged any protest with either the US or Sri Lanka;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government have taken up the matter with the Government of Sri Lanka in order to ensure that such facilities are used for public broadcast only.

Proposal for a Steel Plant in Orissa

343. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has submitted any proposal for a second steel plant to be set up in the state with private collaboration; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?